



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF  
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Reply to: OCE-101

JUN 22 2016

**CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

Mr. Jeff Jabusch  
Borough Manager  
City and Borough of Wrangell  
334 Front Street  
Wrangell, Alaska 99929

Re: City and Borough of Wrangell Wastewater Treatment Facility  
NPDES Permit Number AK-002146-6

Dear Mr. Jabusch:

On December 4, 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to the City of Wrangell, Alaska ("City") for the wastewater treatment facility ("Facility"), NPDES Permit Number AK-002146-6 ("Permit"). The Permit became effective on January 7, 2002 and expired on January 9, 2007. Subsequently, EPA administratively extended the Permit. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of violations EPA discovered upon review of administrative files including the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted by the City, and in response to the inspection of the Facility conducted by EPA on July 28, 2015. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the City's compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the NPDES Permit. I would like to express my appreciation for your staff's time and cooperation during the inspection.

**REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE FILES**

Part II.C of the Permit states, in part, "Monitoring results shall be summarized each month on the DMR form. The reports shall be submitted monthly and are to be postmarked by the 15th day of the following month."

Upon review of DMRs from May 2011 through April 2016, EPA found that the Facility submitted the December 2013 DMR late. The DMR for the monitoring period December 2013, due by January 15, 2014, was received on February 20, 2014. This is a violation of Part II.C of the Permit.

**JULY 2015 INSPECTION**

1. Part II.E.1 of the Permit states, "Records of monitoring information shall include:
  1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements."

At the time of the inspection, the inspector noted that the Facility's lab did not record the time along with the other required analytical and monitoring data for 675 monitoring days between June 25, 2012 and July 28, 2015. These are violations of Part II.E.1 of the Permit.

2. Parts II.E.2 and 4 of the Permit state, "Records of monitoring information shall include:
  2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements,
  4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses."

At the time of the inspection, the inspector noted that the bench sheets used by the Facility lab did not contain the name of the person performing the sampling or analysis. This omission occurred on 109 bench sheets between June 25, 2012 and July 28, 2015. These are violations of Part II.E of the Permit.

3. Part II.E.6 of the Permit states, "Records of monitoring information shall include:
  6. The results of such analyses."

At the time of the inspection, the inspector noted that the Facility's lab did not record monitoring and analytical results on the bench sheets for 13 days between June 25, 2012 and July 28, 2015. These are violations of Part II.E.6 of the Permit.

4. Part III.E of the Permit states, "The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed, or used, by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit."

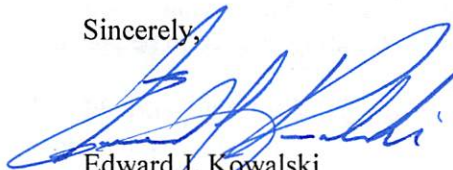
At the time of the inspection, the inspector found the Facility lab's pH buffer solution had expired. The expired buffer solution demonstrates a lack of "adequate laboratory controls and quality assurance procedures." This is a violation of Part III.E of the Permit.

On December 21, 2015, the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule became effective. Permittees with a DMR requirement will have one year from this date to submit DMRs through NetDMR. Additional information is enclosed (Enclosure A).

Although our goal is to ensure NPDES facilities comply fully with their permits, the ultimate responsibility rests with the permittee. As such, I want to strongly encourage you to continue your efforts to maintain full knowledge of the Permit requirements, and other appropriate statutes, and to respond appropriately to ensure compliance. Notwithstanding your response to this letter, EPA retains all rights to pursue enforcement actions to address these and any other violations.

I have enclosed a copy of the inspection report (Enclosure B). If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Raymond Andrews of my staff at (206) 553-4252.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Kowalski  
Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Mike Solter  
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